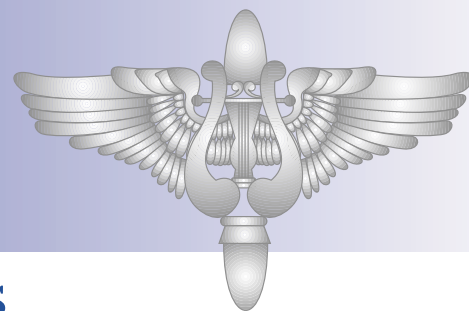


Cadenza



2002 Guest Artist Series



Roy Clark



Kirk Whalum



Cleo Laine and
John Dankworth



Wynonna Judd

The 36th annual Guest Artist Series promises to be one of the most memorable yet. The series, which began in 1966 under the leadership of Conductor Emeritus, Colonel (Ret.) Arnald D. Gabriel, has been host to some of the brightest stars in the entertainment industry, and this year will be no exception. Chief Master Sergeant Daisy Jackson, director of the Band's Office of Public Affairs and Guest Artist Coordinator has "pulled out all the stops" in this, her final year at the helm. After 20 years of dedicated service to The United States Air Force Band, Chief Jackson will retire later this year. Chief Jackson has coordinated the Guest Artist Series for the past decade, and some of her best musical friends have agreed to come back and help her celebrate.

The opening concert, slated for February 3, will feature country music great **Roy Clark**. A dear friend of The United States Air Force Band, Clark is returning for the sixth time since 1990. On Sunday, February 10, you'll be treated to the jazz stylings of saxophonist, **Kirk Whalum**. Whalum first appeared with the Airmen of Note as part its Jazz Heritage Series. The Band is thrilled to have another opportunity to share the stage with him. There's a very special treat in store for the third concert, February 17. Jazz legends **Dame Cleo Laine** and **John Dankworth** will travel from their home base in England to spend Sunday afternoon at DAR Constitution Hall. And finally, the month's concerts wrap up on February 24 with what promises to be an unforgettable afternoon of great music making with the inimitable **Wynonna Judd**. And what's in store for March? You'll just have to wait for the next issue of Cadenza to find out!

The concerts take place at DAR Constitution Hall, on 18th Street between C and D Streets NW in downtown Washington. Performances begin at 3 p.m., and the doors open at 2. These free concerts are offered as a public service; no tickets are required. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so please allow plenty of time for parking and good seat selection. A concert will be offered every Sunday afternoon during February and March, except for March 17, due to the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Washington.

Mark your calendar today. Chase away the winter blues with one of the greatest entertainment packages available to Washington audiences. Like all of the best things in life, these concerts are absolutely free.

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The United States Air Force Band
Washington, D.C.

Colonel Lowell E. Graham, commander/conductor

January/February
2002

Happy New Year, and best wishes to our many friends throughout the United States and around the world. As the leadership of our great nation continues to work for peace and security, it is my sincere hope that the coming months bring peace and happiness to each and every one of you. For our part, "America's Band" continues to deliver the message of unity, healing and national pride to people in the Washington, D.C., area as well as to citizens all around the nation.

During our performances, I love to look out over the sea of faces in an auditorium, gymnasium or concert hall and see America's future leaders among our patrons. These young men and women in your community, many of whom participate in high school music programs, have taken time from their busy schedule of school and extra-curricular activities to attend our concerts. I'm thrilled to see these special people in the audience and am proud to say that The United States Air Force Band plays an active part in their growth and professional development.

In fulfilling its mission to foster our national heritage, the Band has an important role in supporting music education in America's schools. Our ambitious touring schedule, special appearances at industry conventions, and educational outreach programs provide young people the opportunity to hear live music and learn about careers in the performing arts. Our annual Young Artist Competition affords talented high school musicians a chance to compete for an extraordinary performance opportunity. Our compact disc recordings and educational posters are invaluable teaching tools for America's music educators. Students of the arts learn discipline, cooperation and respect for authority. And whether or not these young people ultimately choose music as a career path, the lessons learned will serve them all along the road of life.

As you read through this issue of Cadenza, you'll find articles detailing the great work that "America's Band" is doing every day in the service of this great nation. We are dedicated to preserving the past, serving in the present and helping build the future.



Lowell E. Graham

"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

-Plato

Band honored by Illinois Music Educators Association

The Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) recently named Colonel Lowell E. Graham and The United States Air Force Band collectively as the third recipient of its prestigious Award of Distinction for Outstanding Contributions to Music Education. The two previous recipients have been Sir Georg Solti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and prominent string orchestra composer and pedagogue, Merle J. Isaac.

A letter sent to Colonel Graham by IMEA State President William Jastrow outlined the specific achievements that were taken into consideration. He cited the Band's "exceptional series of educational posters dealing with performance terminology, composers, musical styles and jazz." He went on to state "The numerous CDs showcase not only the technical and expressive capabilities of the Concert Band, but the repertoire the highest level in every variety of style. The USAF Band has demonstrated an educational philosophy in concert programming, in promotion of the concert band and in encouragement of music making, particularly by young people."

Colonel Graham accepted the award on behalf of the entire organization at the December Midwest Clinic held in Chicago, Illinois.

—Master Sgt. Elizabeth Campeau

Singing Sergeants Summary

Although our loyal fans are familiar with members of the Singing Sergeants, they may not be as well acquainted with our director, Captain Chad A. Steffey. Captain Steffey became the twelfth director of the Singing Sergeants in 1999. Since then, he has conducted the Singers at regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, on the *Late Show with David Letterman* and before Vice-President Richard B. Cheney. To help you get to know Captain Steffey a little better, I would like to share with you a recent conversation we had about his musical background and leadership philosophy.

Tech. Sgt. Davis: When did you first become aware that you wanted to be a musician?

Capt. Steffey: In the fourth grade, when one of the string teachers asked the fifth and sixth graders if they wanted to try out instruments. Several kids were interested and a violin class was started. They did not have many students, so it was opened up to fourth graders and I began playing violin. Within the next couple of years, I started playing in band, sang in the church choir and played hand bells. I found that I enjoyed music very much. I looked forward to each class and had a natural talent for it.

By the time I started middle school, I realized I wanted to pursue music.

Tech. Sgt. Davis: Who were your musical inspirations?

Capt. Steffey: My musical inspirations were teachers, band directors and music leaders at church. The father of one of my best friends was the head of the public school music system in my hometown; he was one of my earliest inspirations. We lived one block from the high school football stadium, and from the time I was six, he would let us sit with the band during football games and march out of the stadium with them after the games.

Tech. Sgt. Davis: Tell me about your musical background and training.

Capt. Steffey: Throughout high school, I played the violin in the orchestra and was a percussionist in the band. I also sang in the high school choir and church choir. In college, I was a percussion major and earned my bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University. I received my master's degree from Florida State University in percussion performance. At both schools, I also studied conducting and music theory.

Tech. Sgt. Davis: You were a member of another Air Force musical organization prior to conducting the Singing Sergeants. Please tell us about that.

Capt. Steffey: My first four years in the Air Force, I served as an enlistee musician in the Air Force Band of Mid-America at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. I played percussion in the concert band, brass quintet, and the chamber music ensemble. In 1997, I auditioned to become an Air Force Band conductor and went to Officer Training School. After I was commissioned as a second lieutenant, I spent two years as the assistant conductor with the Heartland of America Band at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

Tech. Sgt. Davis: Was it a difficult transition from being conducted to

being the conductor?

Capt. Steffey: I would not say it was difficult, but it was a strange transition. I learned that players rely a lot more on the conductor than I ever realized. As a conductor, everyone watches you, but as a percussionist, you are always in the back of the ensemble. A percussionist counts many rests and is not necessarily playing for the whole rehearsal or performance. The conductor, on the other hand, is the constant focus of the audience and the musicians in the ensemble. As a conductor, you can never let your guard down. It can be a draining experience, but a very rewarding one, as well. For me, the concerts are a lot of fun while

the rehearsals are a lot of work. During rehearsals, you are constantly making decisions on the fly and taking in a lot of information. Your decisions affect everybody in the group. I feel that I really earn my money in the rehearsal setting because that is where I do my hardest work.

Tech. Sgt. Davis: Do you see any differences in conducting a choir versus an instrumental group?

Capt. Steffey: The most obvious difference is that vocalists have words and instrumentalists do not. All of your musical decisions, interpretations and phrasing have to do with the words. When I learn a new piece, I start with the words: What do they mean? What are they stressing? What is the message of the piece? This sets the

agenda for making musical decisions. With instrumentalists, there are no words, so I begin with the melodic material and overall architecture of the piece. I focus on these elements to make musical decisions about what is important, where the priorities are and what the listener should be drawn to. With vocalists, you have diction and pronunciation to consider. The analogy with instrumentalists would be articulation, how to attack a note, how to end a note and what it should sound like. The other differences are more social. The psychology of the singer versus the instrumentalist is somewhat different. Instrumentalists have spent years and years becoming very good technicians of their instruments; they have a physical command over them. For a singer, their body is their instrument and their personality plays a big part of it, too. An instrumental rehearsal is very business-like. A choral rehearsal is too, but the added element of all these personalities makes for a completely different environment.

Tech. Sgt. Davis: As a leader in our organization, how do you feel about being a musician in the military and the role that music plays in today's military?

Capt. Steffey: I think that today, more than ever, music plays a very important role in our military. When our nation goes to war or is faced with a crisis, we give identity to our nation and strengthen the resolve of our people and military. Music touches on emotions, helps to heal and provides a sense of unity. This is especially true with the music that we perform; people identify with the military through the universal language of music. As for being a musician in the military, this is where my skills and talents lie and the most effective way I can serve; I make the best contribution I can as a military member.

—Tech. Sgt. Brian Davis



Captain Chad Steffey

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Arrivals

Technical Sergeant Steven C. Wilson, Singing Sergeants
Technical Sergeant Tracey Jones, Oboe, Concert Band

The Diplomats

In this issue of Cadenza, the members of the Diplomats, as well as all the men and women of The Air Force Band, bid a fond and sad farewell to Master Sergeant Mitchell Morton, who recently retired from the Air Force for medical reasons.

Sgt. Morton began his Air Force career in 1993 as a pianist with the Air Force Band of Flight located at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. During the time he was stationed there, Sgt. Morton performed with the concert band and jazz band. In 1995, he auditioned for The United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C., and became the accompanist for the Singing Sergeants. In January 2001, the Diplomats was formed and Sgt. Morton's career took another turn as he was assigned to the group. The "Dips" hit the ground running, performing for the highest-ranking officials in the Air Force at functions around the National Capital Region.

A summer softball game changed everything. Last July, Sgt. Morton, coach and third baseman for the Grace United Brethren Church softball team, ran down a pop fly and collided with the shortstop. He hit the ground, blacked out and was rushed to the hospital. The doctors discovered his brain was bleeding, and, after extensive testing, they determined that he had a rare form of leukemia. Sgt. Morton awakened a few days later, and his doctors started chemotherapy treatments. Unfortunately, his body did not react well to the treatment. He was rushed back to the intensive care unit with complications; the doctors did not expect him to survive. Miraculously, Mitch recovered from this allergic reaction to chemotherapy, but an

alternate form of treatment was necessary.

Last year, an experimental treatment for leukemia that uses arsenic was approved in the United States. It had been used with success in other parts of the world. Master Sgt. Morton became the first military member to receive this treatment in an effort to force leukemia into remis-

sion. After 24 days of treatment, a biopsy showed that his leukemia had been reduced from 30% to less than 5% and was now in remission. The treatment ended after 40 days and Mitch went home after almost three months in the hospital.

Today, Mitch is doing very well though he still receives treatments to make sure the leukemia stays in full remission. Someday, he hopes to recover enough to rejoin the Band.

"I was really impressed and deeply touched by all the support from the Band," Mitch told me in a recent conversation. "All those people have gone out of their way to sup-

port me. The cards, phone calls fund-raisers – those things mean a lot to me. It's so important to visit, or call, or just send a card when someone we care about is in the hospital. I took that communication for granted - I think we all do. If I can come back to play with the Band, that would be great. If I can't, then I'll know that God is telling me to do something else. Either way it's OK. I'm here today and that's what's important."

You said it, Mitch!

—Tech. Sgt. Dennis Hoffmann



Master Sgt. Mitch Morton is doing what he loves — performing on piano.

USAF Band Member Organizes Benefit Concert

The ordeal experienced by Master Sgt. Mitch Morton inspired another Band member, Technical Sergeant Anne Seaton of the Singing Sergeants to organize a benefit concert. The highly successful performance took place on Sunday, November 25. Sgt. Seaton brought together members of three area churches, representatives from two health organizations and more than 30 members of The Air Force Band to produce the event. The combined efforts of all involved raised cash donations in excess of \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and two families impacted by the disease. Congratulations on a job well done!

High Flight Happenings

Greetings from High Flight! We hope you had a very blessed holiday season. As we enter the New Year, it is a time for new beginnings, a chance to make changes large and small. Whether it's losing those extra holiday pounds or focusing on a once forgotten goal, we all look forward with anticipation to what the New Year will bring. As for the members of High Flight, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of our newest male vocalist, Technical Sergeant Ryan Carson. He'll join the High Flight family on January 1 after spending two years as a member of the Singing Sergeants.

Sgt. Carson hails from Rapid City, South Dakota. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in vocal performance. While there, he received first place in the Colorado/Wyoming National Association of Teachers of Singing competition, and was also named Outstanding Male Vocal Jazz soloist at the University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival. Sgt. Carson has studied with Clayton Southwick, Carlyle Weiss, Frederick Gersten and Dr. Larry Hensel. He is highly skilled both in opera and jazz/pop styles and has an eclectic resume of concert and theater experience. His opera roles have included Camille, in Lehar's *The Merry Widow*; Eisenstein, in



Tech. Sgt. Carson entertains an enthusiastic audience.

Stauss's *Die Fledermaus*; Duke in Puccini's *Rigoletto*; and Tamino, in Mozart's *Die Zauberflute*. Ryan's theater experience includes roles in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, Shire's *Closer Than Ever*, and a guest artist appearance with the Black Hills Symphony, in "A Toast to Broadway."

Professionally, Sgt. Carson has worked with artists such as Elly Ameling, Heidi Grant, Lee Greenwood, Nell Carter and Robert Tiar. We could not be more thrilled to have Sgt. Carson join our ranks and we greatly look forward to welcoming him, as well as his wife Angie, to our family.

As you read this, High Flight will be hard at work integrating Ryan into the show, which is a culmination of a decade of repertoire. We will also be holding auditions for a female pop/rock/R&B vocalist in February 2002. If you or anyone you know is inter-

ested in joining High Flight and the United States Air Force - please contact: **USAF BAND/BABA, 201 McChord St., Bolling AFB, Washington DC 20332-0202. E-mail: audition@mail.bolling.af.mil (202) 404-3477.**

High Flight thanks you for your faithful support and we look forward to entertaining you throughout 2002.

— Tech. Sgt. Darden Safley

The Air Force Strings

After weeks of intensive preparation, The United States Air Force Strings boarded a C-130 at Andrews Air Force Base, eager to begin our 2001 fall tour. Later in the day, we landed safely at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, just in time to perform for a military ball. The following day, the Strings traveled to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to perform for the installation's annual International Ball. Performances for our Air Force family are a staple of the Strings' mission. They give us a great opportunity to lift the spirits of our brothers and sisters wearing the Air Force Blue who work so hard to preserve our nation's freedom and security.

With our military performances successfully behind us, we were ready to board our bus and spend the next nine days entertaining civilian audiences, and sharing our patriotic message with them. Interacting with audiences and inspiring them through music is always a gratifying experience. This tour, however, it was the audience who inspired us and taught us about the resilience and patriotism of the American people. Every performance boasted a full house. Young children and adults alike were moved to laughter and tears by our performances. The audiences' unanimous expressions of pride were heartwarming, and gave us a heightened sense inspiration and momentum to complete one of our most successful tours.

In addition to our public performances on tour, we visited several high schools as part of our educational outreach program. We worked with students at Southport High School in Indianapolis, Indiana; Novi High School in Novi, Michigan; and Bedford High School in Monroe,

Michigan. During these educational clinics, we invited the students to join us in a performance of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. What a great opportunity this was to work with young musicians and tell them about the many career fields available in the Air Force.

Back in Washington, D.C., violinist Technical Sergeant Cleveland Chandler was selected to be the coordinator of the new "Air Force Band @ Your Library" concert series. The series is a partnership between The United States Air Force Band and the District of Columbia Public Library. It is designed to bring young District residents face-to-face with professional musicians in an intimate environment. The Strings' first performance in this series featured a string quartet appearing at the Tenley-Friendship neighborhood library on December 4. The bright smiles on the children's faces made it a performance to remember.

Congratulations to Air Force Strings director Donald Schofield Jr. on his promotion to captain. Captain Schofield received his new "bars" in a pinning ceremony at the Band building on December 5.

Our first public concert of 2002 takes place on January 23 in Warsaw, Virginia, and features both the String Orchestra and Strolling Strings. The Strings will also be prominently featured in the upcoming Guest Artist Series. These free concerts take place on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. in February and March at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. We hope to see you there. From all the members of the Stings, we wish you and yours a happy and healthy new year.

—Tech. Sgt. Henry Tyzslar

JANUARY

- 23 The Air Force Strings, 7:30 p.m., Rappahannock Concert Series, Richmond County Elementary School, 361 Walnut Street, Warsaw, Virginia.
- 24 "Air Force Band @ Your Library" Series, featuring members of the Airmen of Note, 3:30 p.m., Anacostia Neighborhood Library Children's Room, 1800 Good Hope Road SE, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro Station: Anacostia
- 26 JAZZ HERITAGE CONCERT SERIES, The Airmen of Note, 8 p.m., with special guest artist, Mr. Jimmy Heath, tenor saxophone, Howard University Cramton Auditorium, 2455 Sixth Street NW, Washington, D.C.
- 31 "Air Force Band @ Your Library" Series, 3:30 p.m., Featuring the Saxophone Quartet, Washington Highlands Neighborhood Library Children's Room, 115 Atlantic Street SW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro Station: Anacostia

FEBRUARY

- 1 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Tuba," featuring Master Sergeant Christopher Quade, The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 3 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., Featuring country music legend Roy Clark, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.
- 5 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Country Music," George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 7 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Oboe and Percussion," featuring Senior Master Sergeant Mark Carson and Technical Sergeant Jill Westeyn, John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 10 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., Featuring jazz saxophonist Kirk Whalum, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.
- 14 "Air Force Band @ Your Library" Series, 3:30 p.m., Featuring the Woodwind Quintet, Palisades Neighborhood Library Children's Room, 4901 V Street NW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Bus Stop: V Street and Mac Arthur Blvd.
- 15 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Brass Quintet," The College of Southern Maryland, 8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata, Maryland.
- 15 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Trumpet," featuring Technical Sergeant Curt Christensen, The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 17 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., Featuring legendary jazz artists Dame Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.
- 19 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Brass Quintet," George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 21 "Air Force Band @ Your Library" Series, 3:30 p.m., Featuring the Brass Quintet, Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Neighborhood Library Children's Room, 1701 8th Street NW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro Station: Howard University/Shaw
- 21 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Voice," featuring members of the Singing Sergeants, John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 22 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Saxophone Quartet," The College of Southern Maryland, 8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata, Maryland.
- 24 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., Featuring guest artist Wynonna Judd, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.

The Concert Band

If you have attended a recent performance by the Concert Band, you may have noticed several new faces in the ensemble. Often times, after our concerts, audience members approach the musicians with questions, especially for the newest members. The question we are most likely to hear is, "How did you get into the Band?" In fact, we hear it so often we decided to provide the answer in this issue of Cadenza.

Actually, there are several answers to this popular question. One way to join the Concert Band is to transfer from another unit of The United States Air Force Band, as did Technical Sergeant Michael Piersol, former trombonist with the Ceremonial Brass. Others, such as clarinetists Tech. Sgts. Melinda Burts, Darren Thiriot, and flutist Jennifer Moore followed a different path. They came to us from regional Air Force Bands, from across the country and overseas. Tech. Sgts. Christian Pagnard and Nathan Clark, the newest members of our trumpet section, joined the Band from the civilian world. Finally, musicians from other service bands occasionally join The Air Force Band, as did percussionist Tech. Sgt. Joe Reynolds, a former Marine Bandsman.

All musicians are selected for the Concert Band based upon their performance in a highly competitive audition. Positions in the Concert Band become available when members retire, transfer to another unit of the Band or separate from the Air Force. We publicize our openings in a variety of ways: The Band places advertisements in *The International Musician*; we mail audition announcement flyers to universities and conservatories; and we post openings on the Band's Web page. Candidates interested in auditioning for a position with the Band are asked to send a resume and audio demonstration tape to the Personnel Acquisitions Office. After a preliminary screening, selected applicants are sent repertoire to prepare. The list consists of standard solos and excerpts from the orchestral and symphonic band repertoire. When audition day arrives, all candidates report to Hangar 2, the home of The United States Air Force Band on Bolling Air Force Base. The audition usually consists

of three rounds, during which each candidate performs behind a screen for a panel of Band members. The candidates are asked to play the pre-selected solos and excerpts as well as several scales and sight-reading passages.

After the audition, a winner is selected. If the winning candidate is a civilian, he or she contacts a local recruiter and attends Basic Military Training for 6 1/2 weeks at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. While there, new Band members learn everything necessary to be a member of the United States Air Force. New recruits are taught Air Force customs and courtesies, dress and appearance, military responsibilities and other subjects pertinent to military life. Individuals must also pass tests demonstrating physical and mental strength and endurance. If the winner is already on active duty, he or she simply transfers to The United States Air Force Band from their previous duty station.

Upon arrival at The Air Force Band, all members are promoted immediately to the rank of technical sergeant as part of the Band's special promotion authority. This rank is awarded in accordance to the skill level required to be a member of the ensemble and demonstrated at the audition.

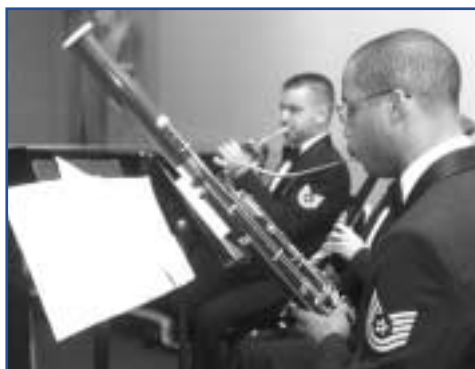
And now, we give a final standing ovation to English hornist and Concert Band manager Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) James Moseley. Chief Moseley recently retired after thirty years of service in the Concert Band. On his last day of rehearsal, I watched tears form in his eyes during a medley he played hundreds of times. He sat to my right and always looked after me to ensure I didn't play in the rests and knew which uniform to wear. I was hired as his replacement. During our time in the Band together, he often told me, "This is the best job in the world, and if I could stay for another thirty years, I would. I hope you love this job as much as I do." I now occupy his chair and play his parts, but I could never fill his shoes. We miss you, Chief.

—Tech. Sgt. Jill Westeyn

D.C. Public Library Launches "Air Force Band @ Your Library" concert series

The United States Air Force Band Silver Wings charmed a Northwest D.C. audience during an hour-long performance that launched the brand new "Air Force Band @ Your Library" concert series. Part of the Band's educational outreach program, the concert marked the beginning of a 10-library tour that will run through May 2002. The series, coordinated by Air Force Strings member Technical Sergeant Cleveland Chandler, is a collaborative effort between the Band and the District of Columbia Public Library.

According to library officials, the concert series is designed to bring young people in the District face-to-face with professional musicians in an



(l to r) Tech. Sgts. Andrew Fordham and Eddie Sanders, part of the USAF Woodwind Quintet, share music with their young audience.

informal setting. "The goal of the program is to expand children's understanding of music while gaining knowledge about the music profession," explained Monica Lofton of the District of Columbia Library. "There is a question and answer portion built into the format to encourage interaction between the musicians and the audience."

Small ensembles from the Band's eight performing units will participate in the remaining concerts that will take place in the children's rooms at Anacostia, Lamond-Riggs, Northeast, Palisades, Takoma Park, Tenley-Friendship, Washington Highlands, Watha T. Daniel/Shaw and Woodridge Neighborhood Libraries.

—Master Sgt. Elizabeth Campeau

All performances are free and open to the public. For up-to-date information regarding performances in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, call our Concert Line at (202) 767-5658. More detailed information regarding The United States Air Force Band is available on the internet at:

www.bolling.af.mil/band

Brass Biz

Congratulations to our newly-promoted Officer-in-Charge! First Lieutenant Michael Mench "pinned on" the rank of Captain on December 5 in a ceremony held in the Band building.

Once again, members of the Ceremonial Brass traveled to New York City for a special appearance on NBC's *Today Show*. Captain Mench led the band in a medley of patriotic favorites on Rockefeller Plaza during the first hour of the special Veteran's Day edition of the program. Despite the near-freezing temperature and biting wind, patriotic Americans assembled in droves to cheer on the band.

Trumpeter and music historian Senior Master Sgt. John Pursell will have an article published in the January 2002 issue of the *International Trumpet Guild Journal*. Purcell was inspired to write his



Captain Mench conducts the Ceremonial Brass on NBC's "Today Show."

article titled, "Renaissance Trumpet Iconography in the museo dell'opera of Florence" after a trip to the ancient Italian city last May. During his visit, he made contact with the museum's curator and was allowed a closer look at the spectacular iconography. Sergeant Purcell became particularly interested in a piece by Lucia della Robbia, and this formed the basis for the article. Purcell is no stranger to the guild's *Journal*. The January issue marks his third published work for the industry periodical. Additionally, Sgt. Purcell's doctoral dissertation about 17th Century Trumpet music is on file at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The Brass warmly welcomes its newest member, trombonist Tech. Sgt. Brandon Chaney, who joined us from the Air Force Band of the West, Lackland, Air Force Base, Texas.

—Master Sgt. Anthony Kirkland

The United States Air Force Band is wholeheartedly committed to reflecting the diversity of our great nation. We actively encourage individuals from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds to learn about our organization and seek positions in *America's Band*.

Airmen of Note Notes

In early November, the Airmen of Note embarked on the most successful community relations tour in recent memory. In a 14-performance trip, stretching from Illinois to Pennsylvania, the Note played to capacity crowds at almost every stop. The tour offered the band a wonderful opportunity to make many new friends and renew many valued acquaintances.

When the band returned from the tour, we reluctantly bid farewell to vocalist Master Sergeant Doug "DJ" Jordan, who is retiring after 20 years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force. Sgt. Jordan's departure is a great loss to the Airmen of Note as well as audiences everywhere; his masterful performances were always energetic and thrilling. While his music will be missed, our friendship will continue because he plans to remain in the Washington, D.C. area.



Master Sgt. Jordan performing with the Airmen of Note.

December was a busy month for the band. In addition to holding a full week of auditions for two upcoming vacancies, the Note supported our fellow National Capital Region military and government organizations as they celebrated the holiday season.

A great deal of preparation goes into the formulation and rehearsal of the show for these holiday events. It begins with librarian Master Sgt. Bruce Gates retrieving the Note's tried and true library of holiday music

from storage. Then, new musical pieces—referred to as "charts"—are added to the mix. These new pieces can be commissioned arrangements, contributions from band members or penned by our staff arranger Master Sgt. Alan Baylock. When the show concept and music selection is finalized and approved by our music director Chief Master Sergeant Joe Eckert, the band rehearses the show to perfection.

In late December, the Note traveled to Chicago, Illinois, and performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic. While the Note has performed at Midwest before, this performance was very special because we paid homage to one of the great figures of the jazz world, and former leader of the Airmen of Note, Mr. Sammy Nestico. To honor Sammy's contributions to the Note, as well as to music educators and players all over the world, we performed some of his recent works. These current charts demonstrate the same brilliance and genius he showed as the Note's staff arranger in the early 1950s. Of course, having him appear on stage with us was a thrill in itself.

On January 26 at 8 p.m., the Airmen of Note is proud to host jazz saxophonist Jimmy Heath in a Jazz Heritage Series performance at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium in Washington, D.C. One of the foremost saxophonists of the jazz era, Heath earned fame while performing in a group with brothers Percy and Albert "Tootie" Heath, as well as collaborations with John Coltrane, Benny Golson, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis and Wynton Marsalis. We hope you join us for an evening with a living jazz legend.

—Master Sgt. Joe Jackson



Jazz saxophonist Jimmy Heath

Silver Wings

This fifth article in our ongoing series of interviews with members of The United States Air Force Silver Wings focuses on our dynamic vocalist and tambourine expert Master Sergeant Marie Mindnich.

Sgt. Mindnich was born and raised in the chicken wing capital of the world – Buffalo, New York! Her mother's love for music inspired her at a young age, and her musical influences include Bette Midler, Barbra Streisand and Aretha Franklin. Sgt. Mindnich attended the University of South Florida as a business major and entered the United States Air Force in 1984. Before joining the Band, she served as an administration specialist, an in-flight passenger specialist on Air Force One and performed with Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase. Sgt.



Master Sergeant Marie Mindnich

Mindnich is currently the lead female vocalist in Silver Wings.

Tech. Sgt. Ascione: What made you decide to join the Air Force back in 1984?

Master Sgt. Mindnich: I joined for a couple of reasons. The first was the substantial educational benefits that the Air Force has to offer. I also wanted to travel and see the world; something I would not have been able to do otherwise. The job security was also a definite plus!

Tech. Sgt. Ascione: What was your first job in the Air Force?

Master Sgt. Mindnich: I began my Air Force career as an information management specialist, a position I held for about 4 years. Then, I traveled to Greece for a special three-year tour as a postal specialist. After that, I went back into administration. At that time, a few friends of mine were thinking of applying to become in-flight passenger specialists. This sounded very interesting to me, so I applied as well.

Tech. Sgt. Ascione: So, you applied to become an in-flight passenger specialist on Air Force One.

Master Sgt. Mindnich: No, it doesn't quite work like that. First, you must apply to be a flight attendant and fly on planes with the vice president, congressmen and senators, etc. Then, after you are trained and qualified, you can apply to be a flight attendant on Air Force One. Most begin working as an "augmentee," meaning you work both on Air Force One and in your original squadron. When a full-time position on Air Force One becomes available, they will hire you. I was an augmentee flying on Air Force One and working in the 99th Airlift

Squadron flying other missions when I entered the Air Force band career field in 1996.

Tech. Sgt. Ascione: What made you decide to pursue a position with an Air Force band?

Master Sgt. Mindnich: I've always enjoyed singing and entertaining. A friend of mine in the Air Force Band at Travis Air Force Base, California, informed me that they were looking for a vocalist for their rock band. He knew I had experience singing in Tops in Blue and in the civilian sector, so I took a chance and auditioned. I was hired right there on the spot! I spent three years with the Band of the Golden West and really loved it. I have many fond memories! When a position in Silver Wings opened up, I jumped at the chance to join the premier country music ensemble of the Air Force. I won the position and here I am...talking to you! (laughs)

Tech. Sgt. Ascione: Tell me about your most memorable moments as a member of Silver Wings.

Master Sgt. Mindnich: I was asked to augment the Singing Sergeants on the *David Letterman Show*, backing up Darlene Love! It was quite a thrill to be on national television. Also, performing for high-ranking military leaders and dignitaries in the Washington, D.C., area is very exciting. I would have to say the best moment of my life has been my recent engagement to Master Sgt. Joe McDonough, who happens to be on the Technical Support team here in our squadron. He is the most wonderful man I know, and I am looking forward to getting married!

Tech. Sgt. Ascione: What does the future hold for Silver Wings, and what will be your role in its development?

Master Sgt. Mindnich: I would love for us to do another recording; it is such a great experience. As for the performances, I hope to see us playing larger venues and performing for larger crowds. This is something Silver Wings does very well. As for my role in the group, I will always try to be a positive force for the younger members, and lead by example as I adhere to the core values of the Air Force. That is very important to me, and something I take very seriously.

Tech. Sgt. Ascione: We've talked about what the future holds for Silver Wings. What does the future hold for Irma Marie Mindnich?

Master Sgt. Mindnich: Joe and I would like to retire together and cruise up and down the east coast of the United States in our boat. We have a 33-foot sedan cruiser, and we love sightseeing and visiting new places. It's very exciting! We can sail just about anywhere; the possibilities are limitless. I plan on taking life one day at a time, and enjoying everything life throws my way. I have truly enjoyed my time in the Air Force. I have gained friends, knowledge, and learned a lot about myself along the way. When I do retire, I will always look back with a smile!

—Tech. Sgt. Matthew Ascione

"I jumped at the chance to join the premier country music ensemble of the Air Force."

Cadenza

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Alumni News

Another honor in the illustrious musical career of Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Floyd E. Werle, the legendary former chief of The USAF Band's Composing and Arranging Section, was added on October 7th, 2001, when he received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts degree from Rocky Mountain College, which is located in Chief Werle's hometown, Billings, Montana.

The hooding ceremony took place on stage in the city's primary concert venue, the Alberta Bair Theater. The festivities immediately preceded a concert by the combined Rocky Mountain College and Billings Community Bands. Following the ceremony, the 105-piece ensemble presented a concert comprised of some of the published material from the pen of this exceptionally talented musician.

Highlighting the performance was a presentation of Werle's *Concertino for Three Brass and Band*, which featured David Reynolds (the College's director of bands) on trumpet, trombonist James Robertson and tubist Dale Peterson. Also featured were two of Werle's most successful commercial arrangements, *A Cohan Broadway Festival* and *Charlie Chaplain Band Portrait*.

The concert portion of the gala afternoon was concluded with one of the selections Floyd wrote while serving the U. S. Air Force, *Glider Pilots' Reunion March*.

However, the end of the concert did not bring to a close the festivities honoring Billings' best-known musical native. Several of Floyd's classmates from Billings High School took him to the Shrine Auditorium at the west end of town, where the Al Bedoo Temple Shrine Band was gathered on the stage to honor their illustrious alum – both Floyd and his father are former members of that ensemble.

And what were the first notes they played? *Al Bedoo Temple March* written in 1952 by none other than Floyd E. Werle! It had been over 40 years since Floyd had heard that early composition, and he was thrilled with both the performance and the honor it represented.

It was a day of highlights in the career of one of the most legendary and productive individuals in the history of military music. Born in Billings in 1929, he began the study of piano at age five, adding clarinet at age eight. As a youngster he played in dance bands in the Billings area, always accompanied by a relative since he was "under age" according to the laws of the times.

He also was a member of several student dance and jazz combos, and performed with them regularly on radio in Billings. His very first composition, *Buck Rake Boogie* for solo piano, was written early in his high school days.

Following his graduation from Billings High School in 1947, Floyd enrolled in the band department at the University of Michigan, and it was there that his talents as an arranger came to the fore. As a sopho-

more, he created a medley for band titled *M Rhapsody* comprised of university school songs; this selection remains to this day in the active repertoire of the University of Michigan Band. In addition to works for the concert stage, he also created innumerable marching arrangements for the famed university marching band.



Chief Master Sgt. Floyd Werle

The Korean War interrupted his education, and in 1950, he auditioned for and was accepted into membership in the 695th Air Force Band at what is now Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana. At about that time, Col. George S. Howard heard the University of Michigan Band play a medley of songs from *South Pacific*, and was so impressed with the scoring that he checked with the band's director, William D. Revelli, to find out who had created that most impressive medley.

When informed by Revelli that the arranger was already in the Air Force, Howard returned to Washington and set the wheels in motion to bring this exceptional young talent to D.C., and, as they say, the rest is history.

Arriving in Washington in 1951, Floyd discovered not just a world-class symphonic band, but also a symphony orchestra and the Singing Sergeants. The latter ensembles were especially important during those years because of the weekly national Air Force radio broadcasts, in which they were the primary attraction. The brilliant young arranger quickly became a key contributor to those national broadcasts.

While Werle had written *Red Lodge Creek Ramble – Opus 6 7/8*, which the Billings High School Band premiered on May 6, 1947, he didn't begin composing in earnest until the very early 60s when *Wonder of Flight* for large symphony orchestra with antiphonal brass and two tape playback systems, *Venite, Exultemus* for orchestra and *Concert Etude for Band* were written.

However, Werle's major output as a composer can be dated to 1963 when Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel became Commander & Conductor of The USAF Band and the doors to creativity were flung wide open. Until Floyd's retirement in 1982, he created over 50 new works, including four trumpet concerti for Doc Severinsen and two symphonies.

As to Werle's "interrupted" education, to his total and complete surprise, he was awarded his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan during a concert by The USAF Band and the Singing Sergeants in the University's Hill Auditorium on January 21, 1982.

The first half of the concert concluded with Werle's *2nd Symphony*, in which he played the organ part. To his surprise, the university director of bands, George Cavender, the president of the Alumni Society, Mary Teale and university regent, Tom Roach, approached the center microphone. Cavender referred to Werle as "your typical student genius," and Teale honored him as an outstanding alumnus. Then, on behalf of the University, Roach conferred the Bachelor of Music degree with distinction that Floyd's enlistment during the Korean War had denied.



(l to r) Dr. Jim McBride, Floyd Werle, and Dr. Dave Reynolds,
Director of Bands at Rocky Mountain College

But perhaps the greatest honor came later when the legendary director emeritus of university bands, Dr. Revelli, referred to Floyd Werle as “the most talented student musician I ever had – he was the best.”

Following his retirement in 1982, Werle continued to live in Springfield, Virginia. His primary musical activity is working as minister of music at Faith United Methodist Church in Rockville, Maryland, a position he has held since 1967. In November of 1999, he lost his wife of 39 years,

Violet Rose Lowser Werle, following an unusually long battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

—Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Harry Gleeson

Are you moving? If so, let us know. One of our big challenges is to keep our database current. You can help us! We will make sure your address is updated in our system, so *Cadenza* can follow you to your new home. Drop a line to:

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You may also send e-mail to:
Kynneth.Sutton@bolling.af.mil

Please include both your old and new addresses. Thanks for your help!

Production Notes

Every January, the Band begins gearing up for its annual Guest Artist Series. Each year’s series brings a new chocolate-box assortment of musical thrills to the stage at DAR Constitution Hall. And every year, the four arrangers and three copyists on the Music Production staff greet each new show with a burst of creative energy that showcases their strongest assets — versatility, flexibility and speedy work.

Few projects require as much versatility from the arrangers as the Guest Artist Series. Our celebrated artists come from all walks of musical life. Most performers request special arrangements tailored to their needs and governed by our unique resources. Our expert staff is always delighted to accommodate them. Our arrangements cover a broad spectrum of musical styles: the library currently holds country classics for Glen Campbell and Roy Clark, lyrical opera arrangements for Harolyn Blackwell and Simon Estes, smooth jazz charts for Keiko Matsui, and old-fashioned party rock of the Ventures. We can always count on the arranging staff to create an unforgettable musical afternoon that delights the audiences as well as the artists.

In addition to versatility, flexibility is an essential tool for the staff.

Typically, the guest artists hear the new arrangements for the first time during the dress rehearsal, usually the day before the performance. With all the musical colors the Band has to offer, the arrangements often

sound very different from the original. Our guests often suggest changes during the first rehearsal. It’s not uncommon for changes to happen “on the fly” and occasionally require rewriting. Either way, time is critical; the arranger must be able to think on his feet.

Short deadlines are the norm during the Guest Artist Series. A late confirmation or last minute cancellation can change the whole show. Once the series is underway, the staff of four often create as many as six new arrangements in a week — the copyists then have a day or two to prepare the individual parts for the musicians.



The Music Production staff looks on while Master Sgt. Shani Prewitt and Tech. Sgt. Darden Safley sing a new arrangement.

Whatever the musical demands and however tight the deadline, the Music Production staff can always be counted on to deliver a show that delights the artists, musicians and audience with an exceptional experience. Here’s to another star-studded Guest Artist Series with The United States Air Force Band!

—Master Sgt. Robert Thurston

Chamber Players

The Chamber Players Series is in full swing with an ambitious concert schedule at several venues around town during the month of February. Don’t miss your chance to hear members of the Ceremonial Brass, Concert Band, Singing Sergeants, Air Force Strings and Silver Wings as they perform exciting recitals of some of the greatest compositions from the chamber music repertoire. Whether it’s a brass quintet or a concerto for flute, the Chamber Players Series guarantees an evening of great musical entertainment. Check the calendar for concert details and locations. See you there!

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